

31 March 2006
Friday

READINGS

Psalm 107:1-32; Exod 2:1-22; 1 COR 12:27-13:3; Mark 9:2-13

DEVOTION

About a week ago I made a phone call home and from the sound of my wife's voice I could tell there was something that was troubling her. I asked her to let me know what was troubling her heavy heart. She said she didn't want anything to distract or worry me while I was deployed. I told her I have to know! She began to cry, telling me that our 23 year old daughter Melissa is in ICU at Long Beach Memorial Hospital. The doctor had misdiagnosed her illness and two days ago she was in critical condition. She told me to call her back in the morning and she will have more information for me. We hung up and I began to hurt so deeply inside. I sat down and prayed to God to help my daughter get thru this critical time. My S-1 came over to me when I was leaving and asked if everything was all right and I shared my story. We both prayed together and I went to my trailer for the longest night of my life, with no sleep and time alone with God.

When the morning came, I rushed back to the office to make my call home. My wife shared the news that Melissa was talking and asking my wife to stay the night with her in ICU. Melissa's I.V. machine went off and an ICU nurse came in quickly to see the problem. My wife called out to the nurse "Carol!" and Carol responded back "Julie!". Years ago Carol's husband and I served on a teen ministry together. She told Julie that she would spend the night watching and caring for her. (1COR12:27-28) My oldest daughter was exiting the hospital and ran into the Melissa's youth pastors from many years ago. He went to Melissa's bed and prayed for her.

My wife then shared that two weeks ago she left her school and blacked out and hit two parked cars and a telephone pole. This got her a ride to the hospital. The van was totaled and my wife is ok. We finished talking and I was to call back eight hours later for another update. I closed my office door from the world outside and began to look to God for answers. A feeling of fear and anxiety came upon while looking out my office window. Tears began to fall freely from my eyes as I called out to my God for his protective hands around my family. I knew God was at the helm of my ship and He would not leave me now (Heb 13-5). Melissa is home now and started back to college yesterday. Thanks be to God (Psalms107-1)

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